

IS THE MANGO GOOD TO EAT ? (*Mangifera indica*)

It will seem strange enough to any one who has learned to love the flavor of one of the most remarkable fruits in the world that such a question could be appropriate, but, to those of us who have had the chilling experience of offering mangos to people of the most refined tastes and getting unfavorable opinions in return, the question, "Is the mango good to eat?" is not so entirely out of place. Of course, it must be answered in the affirmative, but the answer must be accompanied by the statement that not even the most delicious peach in existence can compare in richness and wealth of flavor with a good mango. In our opinion, anyone who declares he can not abide mangos, either has never tasted a good one or, for some reason, has been unwilling to learn to like them.

In the summer of 1918 an unusually fine lot of mangos (the Totofari, the White Alphonse, and the Kala Alphonse) was sent up from the Miami Plant Introduction Field Station and when in prime condition these were served to the members of the Cosmos Club of Washington. Brief printed descriptions of the mangos, with space for the voluntary comments of those who tasted the fruits, were also distributed. The influencing of opinion was avoided as far as possible.

The following comments show how opinion differed with regard to these mangos and how often those who had eaten the mango in their travels were delighted to taste it again:

Very pleasant flavor and excellent substance. Would prefer it to a good peach. (Earl B. Phelps.)

I acquired the taste for mangos in Panama in 1909-11. The one I have just sampled was better than any I had on the Isthmus. (E.C. Sherman.)

Think the fruit is very good on first trial. (F. Walker.)

A most welcome addition to Cosmos Club menu. A delicious, juicy, and appetizing fruit, with a distinctive flavor that is most agreeable and refreshing. (Gilbert Grosvenor.)

Very sorry but we did not like the mangos. (E. M. Redfield, wife of Secretary of Commerce.)